



## **News Release**

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### **UDOH Claims Database Receives Prestigious Nat'l Honor**

(Salt Lake City, UT) – The Utah Department of Health's (UDOH) groundbreaking work in tracking health care cost and quality has received national acclaim. The Department was named a 2011 Laureate for Health by the International Data Group's (IDG) Computerworld Honors Program. The UDOH All Payer Claims Database (APCD) has been recognized by IDG as "a visionary application of information technology promoting positive social, economic, and educational change."

"We're honored to be among a group of distinguished institutions recognized by IDG," said UDOH Executive Director Dr. David Patton. "The APCD is a giant step in our goal to help all Utahns better understand the true cost of health care services and better assess the quality of the care they receive."

The database is a result of years of work by the UDOH Office of Health Care Statistics and is overseen by the Health Data Committee, a team of public health representatives and private sector professionals.

Determining the actual cost of health care has become a hot-button issue given rising costs and expected state and national reforms. For example, the APCD helps the state identify populations that may be underserved or not receiving preventive screenings and care. Utah is one of a handful of states undertaking this endeavor.

One of the unique strengths of the Utah APCD is its ability to bring together varied data resources, greatly expanding the possibilities for meaningful health care data analysis. The APCD was launched in late 2009. At the end of 2010, it contained data from approximately

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150 million medical, pharmacy, and lab claims pertaining to about 2.6 million uniquely identified people. The APCD is anticipated to grow by more than 65 million claims annually. Eventually, the public will be able to access the APCD to personally compare costs and options for their care.

“The Utah project has raised the bar for other APCDs,” said Mark Gaskill, APCD Project Director and Member of the national Multi-Payer Claims Database Governance Board. “Utah has led the way by establishing what is emerging as a national data submission standard, has demonstrated that person-identified data can be used in a manner that satisfies privacy and security concerns, and that APCD data can be linked to other disparate data resources – greatly expanding analytic and reporting capabilities.”

The Computerworld Honors awards will be presented at the Annual Laureates Medal Ceremony on June 20, 2011, in Washington D.C. Dr. Keely Cofrin Allen, Director of the UDOH Office of Health Care Statistics, will accept the award on behalf of her team. Additional information about the program and a Global Archive of past Laureate case studies and oral histories of Leadership Award recipients can be found at the Computerworld Honors website at <http://events.computerworld.com/Honors2011>.

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.*